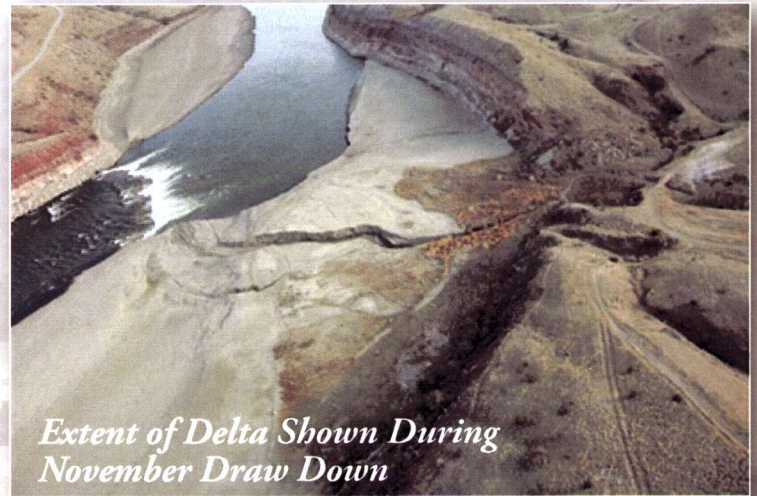


Whitmore Ravine



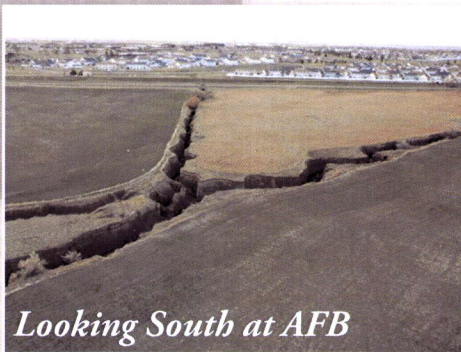
East Fork

Erosion does not occur in the East Fork as it is in its natural condition, vegetated and stable, and is therefore able to handle large storm events. The East Fork does not receive any unnatural flows.



Extent of Delta Shown During November Draw Down

The “**Whitmore Ravine Delta**” in the Missouri River is the result of a significant amount of sediment delivered to the river by Whitmore Ravine. Because the Ravine receives a constant flow of water, the toe of the banks and the bottom of the channel are de-stabilized causing massive erosion when a significant run-off event occurs. Banks slough off and down cutting occurs in the channel. The soil is carried down the Ravine and deposited in the river. Recent estimations place the amount of soil in the river at over 500,000 tons.



Looking South at AFB



Since 2000, the Cascade County Conservation District has been working on the Whitmore Ravine erosion problem, and has experienced some success, though we have been unable to sustain our momentum. We were awarded 2 different grants to conduct first a general inventory of the Ravine, and second, a feasibility study. In 2006 we gained support from the Governor as we pursued congressional appropriations and were successful during the 2007 session to gain nearly unanimous support of the legislative body through a joint resolution. We've had support and participation from the landowners, MAFB, the County Commissioners, City of Great Falls, Recreation Trails Inc, Missouri River Conservation Districts Council, and many others. In 2009, the Conservation District, the landowners, MAFB, and Recreation Trails Inc. signed a memorandum of understanding committing to a dedicated, collaborative effort to move forward.



Cascade County
Conservation
District